



*Castle
Mound
1937*

c.41: Archaeology

1903 05 07

While excavating in Grange Road, Cambridge, some workmen who were digging a trench for drainage purposes came across a skeleton of great age, but in a perfect state of preservation. Behind the skull was a small vessel of yellow ware, with a handle. Messrs Coulson and Lofts had the remains carefully uncovered. Other remains, including a stone coffin and brooches have been found in the adjoining area and confirm the date as late Roman. It is hoped the remains will be removed exactly as found and placed in a glass case at the Archaeological Museum

1907 10 23

Discoveries in King's Lane – archaeology – 07 10 23

1910 05 20

The foundation stone of the first block of the new Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at the corner of Downing Street and Tennis Court Road was laid by the Baroness Von Hugel whose husband is the curator. The ceremony was a very quiet one and the proceedings were very brief because of the death of the King. In a cavity under the stone was placed a bottle containing a couple of newspapers and a number of current coins of the realm. 10 05 20

1910 06 24

Archaeology: animal and human bones near Trinity Street – 10 06 24b

1910 09 23

J.W. Clark of Trinity College has resigned as University Registry after being ill with heart trouble. He was for many years Superintendent of the Museums of Geology and Comparative Anatomy and is the author of many works including a Concise Guide to Cambridge which is the one generally used by visitors. He is a great authority on archaeology and one of the best known Dons to generations of undergraduates. He has taken a great interest in theatrical matters being chairman of the Directors of the New Theatre and the backbone of the ADC for a great many years – 10 09 23e

1911 07 14

The remains of five human bodies have been discovered by workmen driving a tunnel from the cellar to the garden of a house in Trumpington Street. The wall of the cellar was brickwork, about 14 inches thick, which had not been disturbed and the bones had been laid in a trench just outside the party wall. The remains, estimated at 100-200 years old have been removed to the Museum of Human Anatomy
11 07 14b

1912 08 30

Three skulls and a number of bones dug up on the site of the new Wesleyan Church at the Four Lamps have given rise to some interesting speculations. The site was open space until Mr Clayton built a house in comparatively recent times. It is probable that a gallows stood very near as there were four cross roads and an ancient charter mentions 'ubi homo suspendus fuit'. It seems the skeletons may be the remains of three people who met an untimely death in medieval times. 12 08 30b

1912 10 18

Workmen digging at the rear of a shop in Peas Hill discovered the skeleton of a man and women, lying side by side. Nearby is the site of an old monastery and the assumption is that the remains were found in a former burying-ground. If so it knocks the bottom out of one of the best ghost stories in Cambridge, involving a wealthy banker whose young, beautiful wife took a lover who then disappeared. Half a body was later discovered in excavations at the Bijou Theatre Club's cellars. Now it appears they may all be linked. 12 10 18j

1913 05 11

British Archaeological Congress meets, visit Sawston Hall

1914 12 04

Archaeological finds Kings ditch

1920 04 20

Remarkable discovery, — A remarkable discovery has been made at Cambridge during the past week. On Friday last, while a number of workmen employed by the Cambridge Electric Supply Company were engaged in digging operations in Midsummer Common, near Forth Terrace, one of the men came across a human skull. The police were immediately communicated with, and at about 2 o'clock on Monday, a small number of plain-clothes officers proceeded to the spot, and after about an hour the remainder of a skeleton, practically intact, was unearthed. The bones were carefully removed, placed in a box and then conveyed to the police station. The skeleton, which is that of a woman, was barely a couple of feet below, the turf, and the medical opinion is that it had been laid there for probably over 50 years 20 04 28 CIPof

1927 04 27

"It does strike me as a little odd that neither the University nor town had done anything to preserve relics of old Cambridge. So much has left the town and is now scattered all over the earth. I should like to see the Borough start a scheme to preserve what is found and keep together for the study of old Cambridge anything that turns up". This wish was expressed by Dr Louis Clark, curator of the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. When one visited other places one did feel that there was a serious lacuna in the civic life of Cambridge.

1927 02 18

A suggestion to the Chief Constable that a small parking place should be made in Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, may lead to archaeologists being less inconvenienced than hitherto. One of them was summonsed for obstruction. PC Hagger stated the defendant put his head out of the Museum of Archaeology & explained he used his car to take specimens to the museum for demonstration purposes and it was difficult to know what to do with it during the lecture. He was fined 10s

1928 04 05

During dredging operations a short sword, believed to be of 14th century origin, has been recovered from the Cam. The weapon, which was sharper than one would have expected, was found near the corner of Saxon Road and will be handed to the Museum of Archaeology. Two traders' tokens of ancient date were also found in the river bed.

1928 08 15

Cambridge University has lost yet another distinguished son, by the death of Baron von Hugel, founder of the University Catholic Association. In 1883 he was appointed curator of the Museum of Archaeology, to which he had presented a unique collection of Fiji war instruments. Then commenced a period of service which will never be forgotten. He raised the money required for a new building and played a prominent part in the collection of local antiques, carrying out extensive excavations at Girton. During the War the Baron took charge of the Belgian refugees in Cambridge and received a medal.

1933 08 01

The Fenland Research Committee, recently established at Cambridge, has already justified its existence. At Plantation Farm, Shippea Hill, they have discovered an interesting settlement of the early Bronze Age which has yielded a large number of flint implements, arrow heads and knives. Grahame Clarke also found traces of an earlier culture. When it is remembered that the archaeology of the fens has been practically unknown it will be seen that their discoveries are of much importance. 33 08 01

1937 07 16

Workmen excavating for a sewer at Bishop's Road, Trumpington, found a skeleton about two feet six inches below the surface. A number of Roman coins were found in the vicinity some years ago and the skeleton may be of similar date. The bones were in a crumbling condition but the teeth in the jaw were practically perfect. The remains have been handed to the Cambridge Coroner's officer 37 07 16d

1938 08 19

T.C. Lethbridge said a great number of ancient weapons had been found during dredging operations in fenland waterways. An enormous number of daggers dating to the Peasants' Revolt had been found between Cambridge and Clayhithe together with a cup that was probably a chalice stolen from a church. Near Aldreth battle-axes of the type used at the Battle of Hastings had been found; they had hoped to find evidence of Norman knights falling from the causeway into the bog, but succeeded only in finding relics of the Bronze Age. – 38 08 19b

1953 08 19

There have been several important archaeological finds of the Roman era on the Arbury Road building site. Traces of the Roman Road, Akeman Street, a cemetery, a building and extensive rubbish pits have all been unearthed. Two waterworks engineers found some pottery and a quantity of glass which had been imported from the Rhine. But some of this has been lost; it was left on the edge of a trench and has been taken by someone not knowing its historical value

1952 08 20

What may prove to be an important Roman discovery has been unearthed at a building site in Arbury Road, Cambridge. While excavating a trench for a new sewerage system Mr C. Taylor came across a coffin hewn out of solid stone. He lifted the lid, weighing many hundredweight, and there, completely enclosed in a lead lining was a complete skeleton. Nearby was another, also in good condition. It seems possible this was the burial place of an important Roman family as the stone must have been imported and the coffin enclosed in a layer of chalk – there is no chalk in the immediate area

1953 09 07

Work on the excavation of the small Roman house on Arbury Road, Cambridge, has continued and a Roman well with its oak linings in perfect condition discovered. It reached down to the water level 11ft below the surface and was in a good state of preservation due to debris from the older Roman house being thrown down into it and the whole thing sealed when a later building was erected over it. The well was cleared by a Clare College student and Mr Alan Watt, a schoolboy, and the lining removed to the Museum of Archaeology.

1958 11 15

Cambridge Preservation discussed the chalk figures excavated by Mr T.C. Lethbridge on the Gog Magog Hills, about which there has been considerable controversy. They sought the advice of the Council for British Archaeology who have been unable to agree: some consider nothing had been found that was evidence of human activity, others are not sure. Expert geologists had also examined the chalk figures. It has now been decided to allow grass to grow over them. 58 11 15

1959 07 21

Archaeologists digging in Corn Exchange Street have uncovered a 12th-century ditch and the remains of a wooden footbridge or stepping stones and handrail across it. It may have been an early town defence but at only five feet deep and 20 feet across, it was rather small for that. The ditch had only been in use for a few years and was filled with clean blue clay. Later it seems to have been a garden behind a house and rubbish pits had been dug there containing animal bones and broken pottery. A knife dating from the 16th century was also found. 59 07 21a & b

1959 09 12

The present shambles known as the Lion Yard has for too long been a bone of contention. The council meetings have been stormy and wrangling has not been confined to the city. Eventually some form of compromise will be reached and some kind of order imposed on this part of the Cambridge. But before its future is finally decided archaeologists hope they will have the opportunity to investigate its past. 59 09 12

1962 07 03

King's College excavations reveal foundations of old buildings along King's Parade – 62 07 03

1969 04 05

Excavation of Roman town in Mount Pleasant, Albion Row area- 69 04 05

1969 08 27

Arbury Roman settlement – archaeology – 69 08 27a

1971 01 23

Archaeologists have ten days to investigate King's Ditch under Lion Yard – 71 01 23

1972 05 11

Archaeology report, p8

1972 06 20

As President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, I am aware of the many calls for help received by the handful of professional archaeologists in the city and county. A full-time professional archaeologist, appointed by the area authority, would be able to supervise and plan much of the work. Some authorities have already created such posts. There is an immense fund of goodwill in the present younger generation which needs to be channelled and encouraged. I write to plead with your readers to press their local representatives into an active realisation of their responsibilities. The problem is urgent - letter from Christopher Parish, Cambridge c72 06 20

1972 01 28

Roman Cambridge may be lost – dereliction of Shelley Row, Mount Pleasant area – feature – 72 01 28

1979 10 25

A Cambridge archaeologist has suggested spreading tin tacks on important sites to deter treasure hunters from using metal detectors. The argument has flared up because of a new book which lists hundreds of treasure hunting sites. One entry reads: “Traces of an ancient maze can be detected on what used to be the village green in the playground of a Cambridgeshire school”. The book advises people to seek permission from the landowner before setting foot on a site, but the County Council has already banned metal detectors from their land.

1980 09 12

A ‘flying squad of archaeologists could help avert a crisis, say the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Money for conservation and excavation has been drastically cut because of recession and much of our ancient heritage is being destroyed. Many historical buildings are also at risk and such a group could combine volunteers and professional archaeologists to protect what can be saved and record what cannot. 80 09 12

1985 06 29

Cambridge castle mound is being seriously damaged by the feet of thousands of visitors every year and the playful attentions of hundreds of children who have created two impromptu ‘slides’ down the steep slopes. Now archaeologists are to close the footpath and carry out much-needed repairs. Many other monuments are also in need of repair, including Burwell castle, Booth’s Hill at Ramsey and the Devil’s Dyke 85 06 29

1990 11 25

Fitzwilliam Museum given £15 million art collection by Daniel McDonald; follows £11m gift to Archaeology Dept – 90 11 26a